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ABSTRACT

This issue of a magazine of Iowa history for young people focuses on early explorers and combined learning activities with informative articles. Sections in this issue include: "Where? What? Who?"; "Maps--long ago and recent"; "Every map answers at least two questions: Where? What?"; "Jolliet and Marquette"; "Match the maps"; "Louisiana Purchase"; "Lewis and Clark"; "Zebulon Pike"; "Rosie's Maps"; and "Where were the women explorers?" There is also a map of the United States as seen from Canada with "can you find" questions, a student history makers section, a section of answers; and "a history mystery." (DB)

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The Goldfinch

Iowa History
for Young People
Volume 12, Number 7
September 1991

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Early Explorers

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Winner—1990 Golden Lamp for Excellence in Educational Journalism

The Goldfinch

Iowa History for Young People

Volume 12, Number 1
September 1990

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State Historical Society of Iowa, 1990

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A surveyer's chain. Football referees use the same idea for measuring a ball's place on the field.

Cover

This Fox woman is doing beadwork. The year was 1899. It is likely that early explorers saw many scenes like this.

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Carolyn Hardesty

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Where? What? Who?

If you think about a person having breakfast in Brazil, what do you imagine? If a person in Brazil is thinking about you, what do you think he or she imagines?

You have a name. You also are a daughter or a son. You live in a country, and you belong to schools or clubs. How many ways do you describe yourself?

When explorers came to this land, they didn't know what to call the people they found here. This was a problem for them.

art by Jenny Koon

Wild Rosie gives Goldie the Goldfinch a lesson in directions.

People who explore new lands find many surprises. They may find land formations they've never seen before. They may see animals that are different from all the animals they know about. They may meet people who are unlike all of the people they know.

Some people who lived in America had been born in Europe, or their parents or grandparents were from Europe. We now call these people Euro-Americans. Some people had been living in America for hundreds and

hundreds of years. We now call these people Native Americans or Indians.

The Euro-American explorers discovered many new things. Perhaps the biggest surprise was the native people. How could the Europeans understand the lives and ways of the people who already lived here? What names should they use to call them?

The explorers were confused about many things. One famous misunderstanding was about the Mesquakie tribe, which the Euro-Americans called the Fox. This would be like if an outer space person asked a child on a playground, "Who are you?" The child might say "Smith." The outer space person then calls all of the children "Smith." What's wrong with that?

Another confusion was about land. The explorers expected people to want to own land. The native people didn't think about land in the same way that the Europeans did. See the sidebar on p. 16 to learn more about this difference.

Describing places

What do you think?
The most important thing about a map is that

1) it has lots of details
2) the measurements are exact
3) it can be understood by readers

Read on to see if your ideas about maps change.

People need to know where they are. When they don't know, they feel lost, unless they're exploring. We use names of streets, towns, counties, or states to describe our location.

We use landmarks to tell us where we are. In our homes, we know a stove is in the kitchen. Long ago, an arrangement of trees and a familiar path might mark the way to the river.

When guests come to your home, you guide them to your house by telling them street names and directions. When people wanted to explain the land to someone long ago, natural landmarks were the guideposts. This is still common when finding a place in the country.

To make a map, we imagine two things. One is that the world is very small. The other is that we can float in the sky and look at the land as though it were a piece of paper.

Making maps

Maps have changed in many ways. The people who draw maps, called **cartographers** [*kar TOG ruffers*], have learned more about the land, and they've invented more ways to measure.

We often think of maps telling us distance — how far is it from Boone to Ames? Maps also show the order of things. For instance, your mouth is always between your nose and your chin. The distance is different on each face, but the order is the same.

TIME

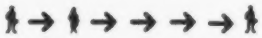
Maps can tell you time, too.

If you lived one mile from two friends, a *distance* map would look like this:

1 mile 1 mile

DISTANCE

If friend X lived straight down the street, you could ride your bike there in five minutes. If friend Y lived on the other side of the freeway, you might have to go far out of the way, cross eight traffic lights and pedal up a steep hill. All of this could take twenty minutes. A *time* map would look like this:



5 minutes 20 minutes

??? Did You Know ???

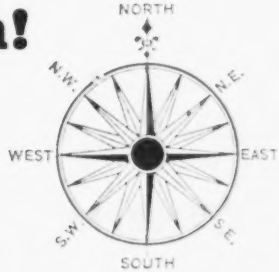
HAVE YOU LOOKED at a full moon lately? The land you see is nine million square miles. That's the same amount of surface as all of North America.

Why Draw Maps?

A map shows you where you've been, and it shows others how to get where you were. If you have a map of your own place and a map of another place, you can see how things are the same and how they're different. Maps help you imagine other places. Sometimes maps help you find treasures.

Never Eat Sour Watermelon!

o	**a**	**o**	**e**
r	**s**	**u**	**s**
t	**t**	**t**	**t**
h		**h**	



How do you remember the directions?

Send us your favorite codes. We'll print them in the February Goldfinch.

Maps—long ago and recent

If you've ever followed a map and gotten lost, you know how important it is for maps to be clear and **accurate** [*as correct as possible*]. Maps have become more accurate as methods of measuring have improved.

When we think of measuring distance, we think of rulers or tape measures. It wouldn't be easy or practical to lay a yardstick along the earth to measure each inch. Instead, the **surveyors** [*measurers*] used a vernier compass, which has a sliding scale for fine adjustment. One is pictured on the back cover. These tools use angles along with facts about triangles to make accurate measurements.

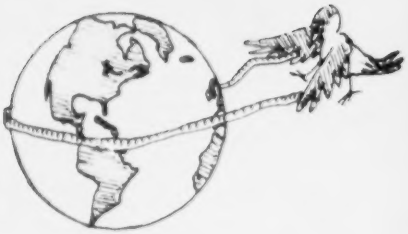
The first person to use this method to measure the earth was **Eratosthenes** [*Era TOS te nees*], who was the librarian in Alexandria, Egypt. At that time—over 2,000 years ago—the library in that great and powerful city had half a million books, rolls, and tablets. Many scientists and philosophers went there to give lectures and talk with each other; it was like a university.

Many people knew by then that the earth was round, not flat. Eratosthenes used angles to figure out how many miles it is around the earth.

Even with better measuring, mistakes have been made or mapmakers have written down the wrong numbers. Some of these mistakes have lasted for centuries.

Does this map look like it was carefully measured?

Many early maps grew out of imaginations.



This map shows the Peters projection. It is one of many maps that show land area more accurately than the common world map we often see. That older map was drawn by Mercator in the 1500s.

The shading on this Peters map shows how many letters people in different countries receive each year.

One mistake caused Christopher Columbus to believe that he could sail west from Portugal and reach Asia about 5,000 miles later. Instead, the distance is nearly 14,000 miles and North and South America are in the way. Another mistake is the way popular world maps have shown the size of countries in our current century. (See page 7.)

Eratosthenes had another good thought. He had an idea for a set of imaginary lines going up and down the planet and another set to go around it. The ones going north to south are called **longitudes** [*LON ji toods*]. The ones that go around, or east to west, are called **latitudes** [*LAT a toods*]. These lines let us identify any location on the planet.

If you live in a town, a map of your neighborhood would have streets going up and down, and streets going across. Those are like small longitude and latitude lines.

Pilots in ships or airplanes use longitude and latitude lines as a guide. What can we learn about other parts of the world by thinking about longitude and latitude. Wild Rosie invites you to think about Iowa and longitude and latitude on her map pages.

Every map
answers at least two questions:
Where?
What?

Put these questions to the test in this issue. Each map should have clues to tell you

WHERE it is—Iowa, China, or a back yard.

Each map should tell you

WHAT it is—What is special about this map? Does it show highways and roads? Does it tell where bike trails are?

This map shows how high the land is. Each line traces the land every time the earth rises by twenty feet. Can you see where the land has gentle slopes and where it rises sharply? Find this section of Iowa on a state map.

Does it mark places for safe swimming or good roller skating?

The purpose of a map is to give information to its readers. The map on the next page is crowded with words. The title of the map and its outline give you the answer to WHERE:

North America.

The *many* words give you the answer to WHAT:

The names of the native tribes
and the area where they lived.

This map would NOT help you drive from Oskaloosa to Davenport. This map could NOT help you find some mountains to climb on. It would NOT lead you to stores that sell frozen yogurt. It WILL tell you about the native tribes that once lived in this country.

Here are two more facts to think about.

In 1492, in the area north of Mexico, there were 1,000,000 (ONE MILLION) Native Americans. In 1870 in the land that is now the U.S.A., there were only 25,731 people who were Native Americans or who had Native American parents or grandparents.

North American Indian Tribes Before 1492

This map gives us the shape of the continent as we know it today AND it shows the types of people who lived on the land 207 years ago, before the British, French, Spanish, and other European explorers came here.

Can you find where Iowa is now?

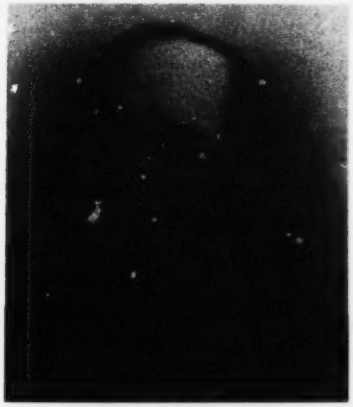
How many tribes do you count? (see page 31)

Jolliet and Marquette

The well-known travels of Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette were the beginning of Euro-American exploration of the Mississippi area.

Jolliet's expedition was done on behalf of France. France hoped to become richer from the furs, the mines, the fish, and the lumber.

France did not want other European countries, such as England or Spain, to take more of the land. Exploring the west—the Mississippi region—was a way to claim the land for France.



Jacques Marquette

What we know

Even though we don't know many things about the journey, we can be quite certain of some things.

1. Jolliet had to finance the trip himself because his government wouldn't pay for it.

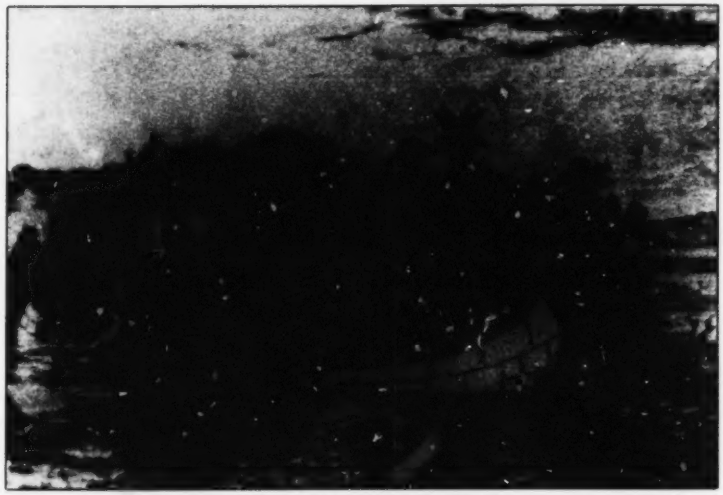
2. Of the men who gave him money for the trip, Jolliet chose five to go along with him.

3. Marquette was born in France. He was a priest living at a mission called St. Ignace, and was chosen to go on the trip by his superior, Father Dablon. Marquette knew several tribal languages, and he was known as a good mapmaker. It was the custom then for a priest or missionary to go along on all expeditions.

Louis Jolliet

In June 1673 (either the 15th or the 17th), they reached the water where the Wisconsin River joins the Mississippi. Marquette's journal says they arrived at the huge bluffs covered in beautiful plants "with a joy I cannot express."

This painting gives us an idea about the moment when the canoes of Jolliet and Marquette reached the Mississippi River for the first time.



The "land across the river" was then claimed as French land. A few days later, on June 25, Jolliet and his party landed their boats at the mouth of the Iowa River. Can you find this on a map?

Questions about the trip—

Historians are not sure about the diaries for the trip.

Jolliet kept his notes and maps in a trunk with many other things he had collected on the trip. On his way home to Quebec, he stopped for several weeks at Sault Ste. [SOO SAINT] Marie, where he copied his diaries so he could leave one copy there.

He traveled home by canoe in the dangerous waters of the Ottawa river. Near the end of his trip home, his canoe **capsized** [*tipped over*]. Everyone except Jolliet drowned. His trunk, which held his journals, sank to the bottom of the river. Not long after this misfortune, a fire occurred in Sault Ste. Marie, and his journals were burned.

Jolliet later wrote down what he remembered, but remembering a trip is not the same as writing down thoughts and ideas every day during the trip.

Marquette's writings offer a different problem for historians. He was quite ill after the trip, but he recovered enough to make another journey down the Illinois river. He and his notes eventually returned to his home at St. Ignace.

Historians don't know if he completed his own notes or if Father Dablon, who ran the mission, finished the journal for him.

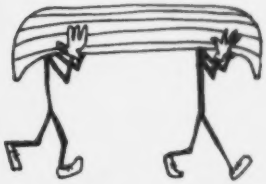
Despite these problems, the Jolliet-Marquette expedition was an important event for the French.

Match the map to the lost people below.

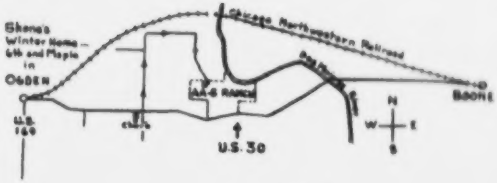
Marquette wants his map. He's proud and wants to show his friends at the mission.

This person is taking pictures of railroad tracks. She wants to know where the Milwaukee Railroad went.

This spelunker is looking for information about Iowa caves.

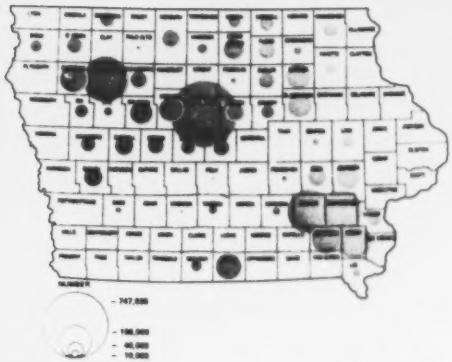


These two are ready for a boating adventure.

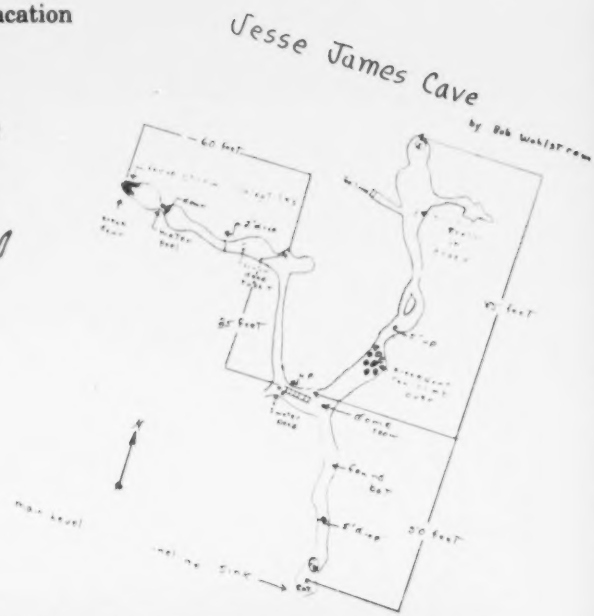


This reporter for ABC News is doing a story on Thanksgiving.

TURKEYS RAISED (1971)*



She needs to get to the Double A Bar S Ranch for a vacation with horses.



He wants to try some cherry pie in restaurants all across the state.

The Louisiana Purchase

When we think about the Louisiana Purchase now, the words make us think of a business deal. We imagine people shaking hands and signing pieces of paper. But the purchase was not a simple bargain.

What we commonly know about the Louisiana Purchase is that France sold the property for 15 million dollars in April of 1803. We also know that Thomas Jefferson was President of the United States. These things are facts, but there's more to think about.

- France wasn't in charge of the land at the time of the sale; Spain was. We paid France, but then France had to take the land back from Spain. That happened seven months later.
- The price was 15 million dollars, but we paid a total of 27 million with **interest** [*fees that must be paid when payment is not made right away*].
- Robert Livingston was sent to France to buy New Orleans (the city was then on an island at the mouth of the Mississippi). The U.S. also hoped to get the Florida land some time.
- In those times, when there were no telephones and no telegraphs, the only way to get messages across the oceans was by ship. It took ships and therefore all messages 70 to 90 days to cross the Atlantic Ocean between the U.S. and France.

Why buy New Orleans?— New Orleans was a powerful city at that time. Since it sat at the edge of land, many ships from far countries stopped there. Traders exchanged money and goods before going up the Mississippi River and when they came down again.

Some people thought that New Orleans would become its own nation, run by France, England, and Spain. But the new Americans (the U.S. was only about 25 years old) wanted more land in their power and less land under the control of the European countries. It

??? Did You Know ???

Do you know why the King of Portugal wouldn't give money to help Christopher Columbus on his trips?

Because the King knew too much.

He knew three important things:

1. how big the world was
2. how big the ships were
3. how much food would be needed by the sailors

The King believed that the ships weren't large enough to hold the food and other supplies that Columbus would need. He thought everyone would starve before they reached land again.

worried the Americans to think about Europeans having so much power in the middle of the New World.

Jefferson wanted New Orleans to be part of the U.S. for another reason. Some of the people who lived between the Allegheny Mountains and the Mississippi River didn't feel a strong connection to people on the east coast. Instead, they received supplies from the middle of the country, and they sold goods—furs, furniture—the same way. Some of those people wanted to leave the U.S.A. and create their own country.

All of these reasons made the Louisiana Purchase a very important event for the U.S.

Can you draw the Louisiana Purchase? It started at New Orleans and went north to the beginning of the Mississippi River. The western border was all land touched by the streams and rivers that emptied into the big river. See p. 31

Whose land was it anyway?

It's important to remember that the continent was home for a lot of people before the Europeans "claimed" chunks of it for their kings and queens.

The Euro-Americans wanted to own land. Where they came from, important people owned lots of land and many fancy things. The native people here didn't believe in owning land. Instead they believed in using the land's resources such as animals, plants, and water. But the land itself was not something to possess.

The native people had boundaries for tribes but not for each family. They kept few possessions so that they could move around easily to use different resources at different times of the year.

An Omaha Indian, Frances La Flesche wrote, "The White people speak of the **country** [*land they explored*] as a wilderness, as though it was an empty **tract** [*land space*] without human interest or history. To us Indians, it was as clearly defined then as it is today; we knew the boundaries of tribal lands, those of our friends and those of our foes."

But the Europeans had guns and great numbers of soldiers on their side. Battles and wars against native people and among the countries themselves went on for years and years. The fighting stopped when countries ran out of supplies or soldiers. It also stopped when leaders signed treaties, which were agreements.

These are some of the events that formed our nation.

Here is how Europe viewed North America in 1783.

Lewis and Clark

William Clark

LEWIS AND CLARK led a group of explorers 8,000 miles for two and a half years. They traveled up the Missouri River, stopping for food and rest on the soil that would be part of Iowa one day.

MORE HAS BEEN WRITTEN about the adventures of Lewis and Clark than any other explorers of this part of the world. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led a successful journey of discovery on behalf of the U.S.

One reason for their fame is that President Thomas Jefferson asked them to go. Jefferson is one of the country's most well-respected founders. Another reason for their fame may be that their journey came right after the Louisiana Purchase. In fact, the trip was planned before the U.S. bought the land. (See page 14 for that story.) Jefferson had asked Congress to grant $2,500 for a secret expedition.

During the trip, Lewis and Clark took many notes, and they drew pictures and maps. Their journals have been important to people who want to learn about that period of time.

Only one death

Historians are surprised that only one man died on the trip. Traveling through unknown landscape with not too much knowledge about sickness and health made the trip dangerous in many ways.

Meriwether Lewis

The man who died was Sergeant Charles Floyd. His death was probably from a burst **appendix** [*infection in the intestine*]. Such an infection was medical mystery at the time, and Floyd would have died from the same cause if he had been at a large city hospital. He was buried on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River near what is now Sioux City. The Floyd River was named after him. See Lewis's journal entry.

Mysteries of the unknown

When the explorers began their trip, they didn't know what lay ahead—deep rivers, strange animals, marshes, or mountains. Lewis bought over a **ton** [*2,000 pounds*] of supplies, including many gifts for the people they would meet along the way. Lewis also **concocted** [*invented*] a "portable soup" made of dried things. It tasted awful and was used only when there was absolutely nothing else to eat.

The group took along many books about **botany** [*plants*], history, **mineralogy** [*rocks*], and **astronomy** [*stars*]. They even hauled a four-volume dictionary.

Jefferson's instructions—

One of the goals of the trip was to discover a water route across the country. This passage would have made trade much easier. Jefferson also wanted detailed reports on plants, insects, animals, fossils, and soil. He asked Lewis to be friendly to the native people and to invite the chiefs to Washington, D.C.

When Lewis asked Clark to join him, Clark said he looked forward to "dangers, difficulties, and **fatigues** [*being very tired*]." He also wrote to Lewis "no man lives with whom I purfer [prefer] to undertake such a Trip as yourself."

Even though the trip was supposed to be a secret, the Spanish heard about it. Spain wanted to keep control of the land, so some Spanish soldiers were supposed to attack and kill the men, whom they called "Captain Merry and his Followers." But it didn't happen. The band of adventurers stayed at a camp near St. Louis for five months with no attack.

In mid-May of 1804, the party began their trip north. When they were ready to go, Lewis sent messages of friendship ahead to the Sauk, Fox [Mesquakie], and Sioux [Dakota] tribes. He also sent to Jefferson a box containing Indian **vocabularies** [*word lists*], samples of silver, crystal, and lead, and a ball of hair

This drawing shows the land where Sargeant Floyd was buried. The land is called Floyd's Bluff.

from the stomach of a buffalo. (Jefferson wanted to know about *everything*.) Lewis also sent a horned lizard in a cage. This animal was new to Euro-American scientists.

The men departed with two open rowboats and a giant rowboat which was large enough for a cabin, most of their supplies and the other explorers. Lewis and Clark were joined by 43 men. Some knew how to navigate rivers, others knew how to cross mountains, one **interpreter** [*knowing how to translate languages*], and Clark's slave, York. Lewis brought his pet Newfoundland dog, who was called Scannon. Native people along the way were amused by the large, shaggy dog, who looked something like a tame bear.

??? Did You Know ???

The cost of the Lewis and Clark Expedition was $38,722.25.

The trip began easily with plenty of **game** [*roaming animals of the land*] to eat. Hunters killed geese, turkey, and deer. Travelers also enjoyed a great luxury—roasted beaver tail.

After Sergeant Floyd's death, the explorers continued their journey. Far to the north of present Iowa, the group was joined by others, including Sacagawea. Her assistance as a guide and **naturist** [*one who knows a lot about nature*] was highly valued by Lewis and Clark.

To learn more about the amazing journey, ask your local librarian for ideas, or check out *The Incredible Journey of Lewis and Clark* by Rhoda Blumberg. To learn more about Sacagawea, *Goldfinch* readers recommend *Streams to the River, River to the Sea* by Scott O'Dell.

from Lewis's journal

Watch for differences in spelling and punctuation.

20th August Monday 1804

Sergeant Floyd much weaker and no better. . . . at the first Bluff on the S.S. Serj. Floyd Died with a great deal of Composure, before his death he Said to me, "I am going away, I want you to write me a letter." We buried him on the top of the bluff 1/2 Mile below a Small river to which we Gave his name, he was buried with the Honors of War much lamented, a Seeder post with the (I) Name Serg. C. Floyd died here 20th of august 1804 was fixed at the head of his grave.

An artist's drawing of what Sacagawea may have looked like.

Sacagawea

SACAGAWEA IS ONE OF THE MOST famous women from the early 1800s in this country. She was a guide and traveler with Lewis and Clark. Sacagawea's husband bought her from slave traders. They joined the expedition in Fort Mandan, which was in the Dakota area in the map on p. 9. They traveled to the Pacific Ocean and back.

Lewis and Clark were fond of Sacagawea, but they didn't like her husband, who was mean. Because of the customs of the time, the husband was paid—more than $500—for his work with the explorers and Sacagawea was paid nothing. Several years later, Lewis paid for her son's education.

Jefferson's wisdom

THOMAS JEFFERSON DID MANY IMPORTANT things for the U.S. He imagined that the nation would be so large that there would always be wilderness. Here is what he wrote to James Madison in December 1787.

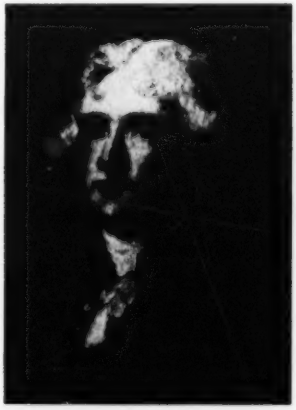
"Our governments will remain **virtuous** [*kind, considerate, honest*] for many centuries; as long as they are chiefly agricultural; and this will be as long as there shall be vacant lands in any part of America."

He believed that farming helped people have a good life. Farmers would keep the governments honest. The continent was so wide that he thought land would be vacant for hundreds of years.

If you could travel through time and talk to Jefferson about the U.S. in the 1990s, what do you think he would say about:

zoos
national parks
the farm crisis
fast food restaurants
freeways
air pollution

Send your ideas to *The Goldfinch*, 402 Iowa Ave., Iowa City, IA 52240.



Zebulon Pike

ZEBULON PIKE TRAVELED the Mississippi River just a few months after Lewis and Clark left St. Louis on their journey.

LIEUTENANT ZEBULON MONTGOMERY PIKE

By the time of the Lewis and Clark journey—1804—traders from France and from Britain had been swapping furs for whiskey, guns, blankets, and supplies for over a hundred years. For many, it was home.

Pike became a soldier in his father's infantry company when he was fifteen. He was 26 when he led the Mississippi trip. His instructions were to:

1. travel to the river's source
2. find good places for military posts
3. spread good will among the native people
4. see how many British traders had stayed on in posts after the Louisiana Purchase

The traveling was often hard. Sailing up-river, the men had to pole through hard currents. Sometimes their boat caught on sand and had to be lifted to go forward. One day the boat caught on a log shortly after they departed. The men spent hours freeing it. Some of the men had to go under the water again and again to saw off part of the log.

When the boat was ripped, supplies and clothing became wet. The trip was stopped so the men could air the goods.

With only four months' worth of food on the boat, the men traded with native people and shot animals. One day they killed 298 pigeons, many more than they could eat.

Lost dogs

Another day they landed on the Iowa side of the river and wandered into the prairie. Pike's two favorite dogs went along. The dogs were tired and failed to keep up. When the side trip was over and the boat was ready to sail, Pike sent two men off to find the dogs. The men, too, got lost. Finally, Pike and his group went on. They thought the men would travel north on foot. But not until three weeks later, when Pike was visiting Julien Dubuque's territory,

THE EXPEDITIONS OF
Zebulon M. Pike

Expedition to find the source of the Mississippi River, 1805-1806

were the men returned. They'd gotten lost. They were half-starved when they wandered into a Mesquakie village. The native people fed them and helped them.

Pike saw his explorer duties including the following: (Rearrange the letters to learn Pike's duties.)

- _____ omsnrarote
- _____ vsruyree
- commanding _____ fifoecr
- _____ (in charge of supplies) rlcek
- ___ (on British traders) pys
- _____ dugie
- _____ thnuer

He didn't believe that he was skilled in all of these areas, but he did the best he could. As a hard-working military man, his trip helped make America's claim on the land.

The men traveled about 18 miles each day. Pike always thought it was farther, probably because of all the work of fighting the strong current (see the article on early maps).

Pike's trip took over seven months. He named several good locations for forts, had many peaceful meetings with native people, and wrote many notes about the land along the Mississippi River. He is remembered by two Pike's Peaks—one near MacGregor and one from a later trip near Denver, Colorado.

Pike died in the Battle of York (now Toronto) in the War of 1812. He was a brigadier general then and only 34 years old.

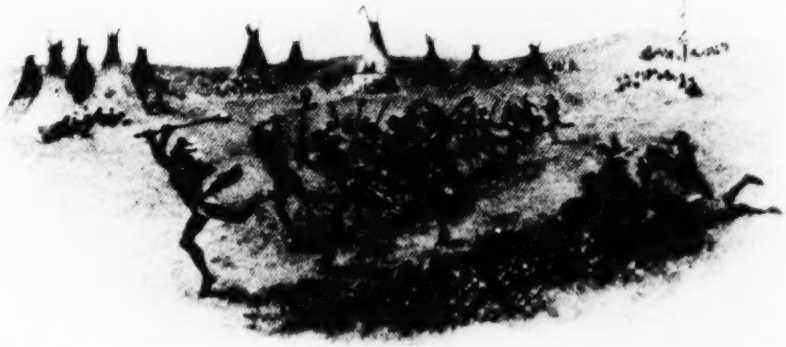
??? Did You Know ???

The earth is very bumpy. To measure how high mountains are, scientists have to pretend the earth is as smooth as a rubber ball. This "pretend" ball is called a geoid [GEE-oid].

An entry from Pike's journal

Watch for differences in spelling and punctuation.

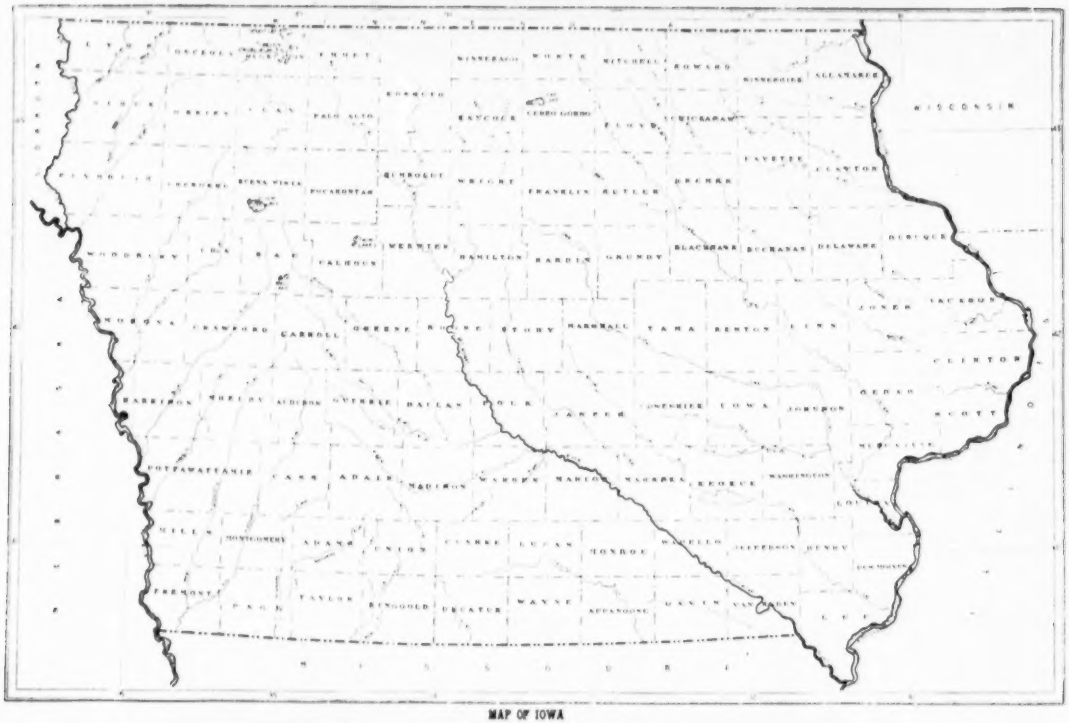
Sunday, Apr. 20th, 1806. This afternoon they had a great game of the cross on the prairie, between the Sioux on the one side, and the Puants and Reynards [Sac and Fox] on the other. The ball is made of some hard substance and covered with leather; the cross-sticks are round and net-work, with handles of three feet long. The parties being ready, and bets agreed upon, sometimes to the amount of some thousand dollars, the goals are set up on the prairie at the distance of half a mile. The ball is thrown up in the middle, and each party strives to drive it to the opposite goal; when either party gains the first rubber, which is driving it quick round the post, the ball is again taken to the center, the ground changed, and the contest renewed; and this is continued until one side gains four times, which decides the bet. It is an interesting sight to see two or three hundred naked [native Americans] contending on the plain who shall bear off the palm of victory; as he who drives the ball round the goal is much shouted at by his companions. It sometime happens that one catches the ball in his racket, and depending on his speed endeavors to carry it to the goal; when he finds himself too closely pursued he hurls it with great force and dexterity to an amazing distance, where there are always flankers of both parties ready to receive it; it seldom touches the ground, but is sometimes kept in the air for hours before either party can gain the victory. In the game which I witnessed the Sioux were victorious—more, I believe, from the superiority of their skill in throwing the ball than by their swiftness, for I thought the Puants and Reynards the swiftest runners.



Do you know what we call this game?

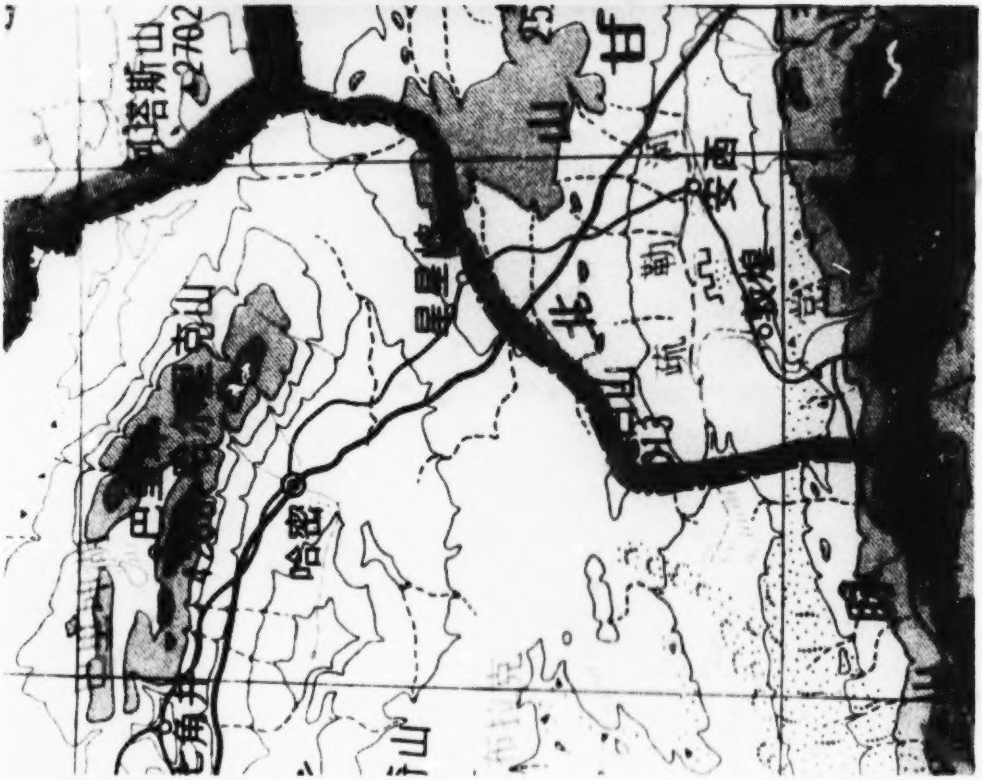
[redacted]

[redacted]



MAP OF IOWA

[redacted]



Why would Rosie pick this map for *The Goldfinch?*

See page 31

Clues:

A word with a capital letter on page 6.— — — — — —

Erathosthenes put lines around the world. They're called L — — — — — — — — and L — — — — — — — — — lines. See p. 25

What happens if you draw a line from Iowa over the top of a globe.

Caroline Phelps's 1830s diary

Where were the women explorers?

WE LEARN ABOUT the distant past in many ways. Some ways are to read a diary or journal, or to study maps and reports.

Explorers drew maps and wrote in journals, which they brought back to the kings or governments that paid for the journeys. Since women were not hired by presidents or kings to be explorers, we don't know very much about their early travels. We do know about some Euro-American women who came to this area to live.

Caroline Phelps's diary tells about living in the Iowa land in the 1830s. The first entry is from March 4, 1830. William is her husband. You will see differences in spelling, punctuation, and word order. Read the words aloud to help understand them.

"Today, the fourth, Wm. [William] starts away to St. Louis on a keel boat to get up goods for his Father and try to make something for ourselves as we had nothing but our clothes to begin the world with and but very few of them."

"In the spring I helped [Wm.] to pack the skins, as we had no man to help. I helped him myself, and by the time the ice was off of the river we were ready to go down, we loaded our boat and started with two indians to help us. I steered the boat most of the way. . . ."

"The first of October our men went up the river farther and built a house to trade with the indians. In a few weeks they came back with the boat, in a few days they started down the Mississippi after more goods and provisions."

May 1833. "Now the American fur company and the Phelps' have joined in partnership and Wm. has concluded to move away up to Desmoin."

"We traveled on every day in this way . . . till the 20th day, when our cow took fright at some soldiers and ran off, our indian guide after her, we then got lost or lost our own trail, but we were going on in the direction we had been when we met 300 soldiers. They also had an indian guide, the old indian rode up to me and asked me where I was going. I told him I was going up the river to see the Sioux. He said I was crazy and that I would be killed certainly . . . I was bewildered, so I did not know the right way. We hunted for the trail till most dark. I then took a course for the river. We got down in the river bottom but the vines and bushes was so thick and it was now so thick and it was now dark we stopped and listened and hollowed [hollered] or called our folks at last we heard the horn. . ."

March 5, 1836. "Wm. hired a little indian boy to stay with me, but he was so afraid of the Sioux he kept hiding under the floor every noise the dogs made. We were getting pretty scarce of **provisions** [*food*], we had some honey and corn, the fifty day the boy left me, so I was alone with my two little children. . ."

"In September the indians went to Washington to sell land while there to attend all the places of amusement that is going. They returned to their towns, or rather to our trading house to store their goods, as they sold their land for part goods and part money, they stored their goods in one of our houses till they could divide them."

1836. "The current run swift, we soon got down to a trading house, it was at the indian town or opisite. We expected to live there sometime. . . It is now eleven months since I saw a white woman."

"In the fall Wm. came home and in the spring our men went up the river to build, as the indians moved too having sold them other town. We all settled near together again, the river between us. . . Fourth of July I made a feast for the women and the children, as the indians most of them had gone out on a war party."

"The indians have come from war and brought 11 prisoners. . . One that had the baby was parted from her child and sold to a white man. She run away and came to our house and hid, she was afraid of the Sacs indians. My husband and myself went to the indian town to try to get her child . . . my husband went to see the indian agent, they counciled with the indians about buying the prisoner of them, they concluded to take $10 a piece for them and take it in goods, the agent and my husband bought them. . ."

"The winter 1840 in February 22 at 3 o'clock at night I awoke and heard some noise. I waked my husband, he heard it in a moment, he hallowed fire fire he ran to the store, the blaze was now some twelve feet high the roof burning . . . he thought he could save some of the goods, but when he looked arund he saw no chance to save any. He then thought all the buildings would soon be on fire."

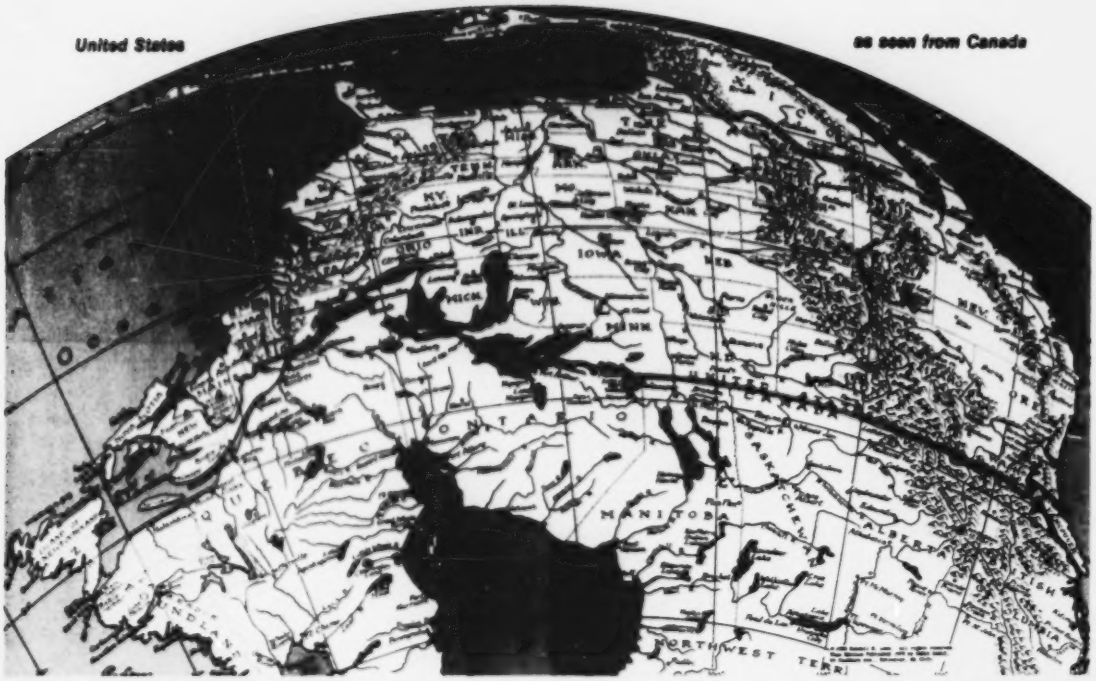
"Those white men had only lived a short time with us, but our lame indian we all liked we felt his loss very much [he died in the fire], my children cryed for poor John as we called him, as much as though he had been a relative. He was their friend. . ."

Who else lived in the Mississippi Valley?

BEFORE AND AFTER the explorations of Jolliet and Marquette, other French people lived in the Mississippi river area. These people were called **Coureurs de Bois** [*ka ROO de bwa*]. This is French for "rangers of the woods."

These men lived on their own in the woods. They trapped furs and traded with the native people. They liked living outside of the law.

Another early name in Iowa's history is Julien Dubuque, who settled in Iowa 90 years after Jolliet's trip. Dubuque gave presents to the Mesquakie and learned their language. They gave him permission to mine lead from the land.



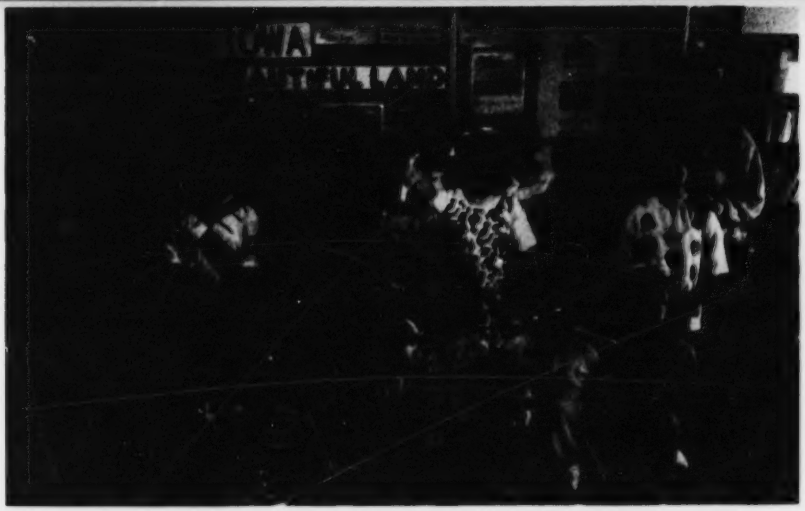
Can You Find?

Hudson Bay?
Iowa?
Lake Michigan?
Atlantic Ocean?
Gulf of Mexico?
Sioux City?
Mississippi River?
Rocky Mountains?

Put the directions into the compass.

Turn the map upside down to see a more common view of the U.S.

History Makers



This is Catherine Young's fourth grade class from Regina Elementary in June 1990.

Front Row: Melissa Moreland, Elena Chiappinelli, Katie McFarland. Second Row: Kate McDonald, Tom Hurt, Lee Chapman, Jennifer Ruppert, Joey Kestrel, Ashley Droll. Third Row: Jose Cuzzani, Jenny Alberhasky, Nathan Kron, Michael Campbell, Christine Hradek, Chris Andino, Erin Hargrave. Fourth Row: Bridget Donahue, Sarah Martz, Melinda Mullin, Peter Rossmann, Kyle Lehman, Chris Greazel, Katie Miller.

If you read the April *Goldfinch*, you saw how some fifth and seventh graders spent their free time. The article told how much time the Des Moines students of 1950 and 1958 spent on media.

Catherine Young's fourth grade students at Regina School in Iowa City agreed to answer the same questions. The numbers below are averages. Some students did more and some did less.

How many movies have you seen in the past month?

about two

How many hours each day do you listen to the radio?

school days: almost 2 hours
weekends: 2 hours

How many hours do you listen to recorded music?

school days: 2 hours
weekends: 2 hours

How many hours do you watch TV?

school days: over 3 hours
weekends: almost 4 hours

How many comic books do you read each week?

almost one whole book

How many minutes do you spend reading the newspaper?

daily: a little more than 8 minutes
weekend paper: a little more than 11 minutes

Favorite free-time activities were reading and physical activities such as bike-riding, playing outside, sports.

History Mystery Answer

Ira Cook worked for the government. One of the tools he used was a vernier compass, which has a sliding guide. He began surveying in Iowa in 1849, in Decatur and Ringgold counties. He had a crew of six to eleven men.

Iowa and the map of part of northern China are on opposite sides of the northern half of the world. Iowa's latitude is between 40° and 44° North. The longitude is between 90° and 97° West. This portion of China is 40° and 44° North and 90° and 97° East. If you go directly through the world from Iowa, you would come out in the ocean, near Australia.

How many tribes did you count? There are 243.

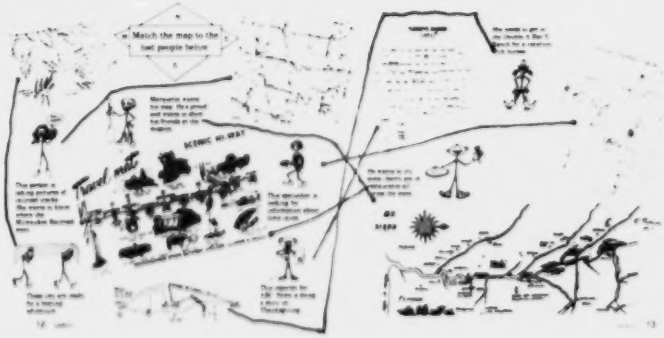
from → page 15

??? Did You Know ???

THE LOWEST LANDPOINT in Iowa is 480 feet above sea level. It's near Keokuk. THE HIGHEST LANDPOINT in Iowa is 1670 feet above sea level. It's near Osceola. Look at a map and find these places. Are you surprised?

Here's what Pike did as an explorer:

- astronomer
- surveyer
- officer
- clerk
- spy
- guide
- hunter



History Mystery

What is on the table in front of this man?

Hint: The man is a surveyor. He worked in the Iowa territory long ago.

See page 31 for more information.

Thanks to those who wrote to us about the photo on page 3 of the Film, TV, and Radio issue. We thought the photo was taken in Dubuque, but it is of a courtyard on the campus of the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.

Attention Librarians and Teachers: An index for *The Goldfinch* is now available. Write or call 319-335-3916 for information.

The Goldfinch

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